



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 7
901 North Fifth Street
KANSAS CITY, KS 66101

Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129

JAN 23 2008

Mr. Richard Leopold, Director
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Henry A. Wallace Building
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Mr. Steven M. Pirner, Secretary
Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Joe Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501-3181

Dear Mr. Leopold and Mr. Pirner:

Re: Approval of TMDL for Lower Big Sioux River

This letter responds to the submission from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SDDENR) originally received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 7, on August 28, 2007, and EPA, Region 8, on December 3, 2007, for a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) document which contained TMDLs for indicator bacteria. Lower Big Sioux River segments were identified on the 2004 Iowa §303(d) and the 2006 South Dakota §303(d) lists as impaired. This submission fulfills the Clean Water Act statutory requirement to develop TMDLs for impairments listed on a states' §303(d) lists. The specific impairments (water body segment and pollutant) are:

Water Body Name	Water Body ID	Pollutant(s)
Big Sioux River	IA 06-BSR-0020_1	E. coli
Big Sioux River	IA 06-BSR-0020_2	E. coli
Big Sioux River	IA 06-BSR-0020_3	E. coli
Big Sioux River	IA 06-BSR-0010_1	E. coli
Big Sioux River	IA 06-BSR-0010_2	E. coli
Big Sioux River	IA 06-BSR-0010_3	E. coli
Big Sioux River	IA 06-BSR-0010_4	E. coli

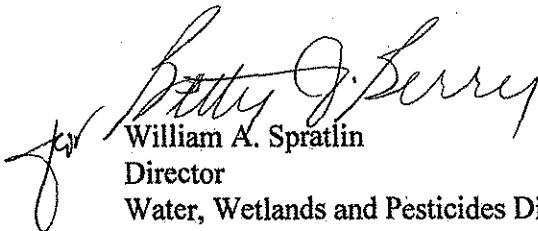
Big Sioux River	SD BS-R-Big_Sioux 13	fecal coliform
Big Sioux River	SD BS-R-Big_Sioux 14	fecal coliform
Big Sioux River	SD BS-R-Big_Sioux 15	fecal coliform
Big Sioux River	SD BS-R-Big_Sioux 16	fecal coliform
Big Sioux River	SD BS-R-Big_Sioux 17	fecal coliform

EPA has completed its review of these TMDLs with supporting documentation and information. By this letter, EPA approves the submitted TMDLs. Enclosed with this letter is the Region 7/Region 8 TMDL Decision Document which summarizes the rationale for EPA's approval of TMDLs. EPA believes the separate elements of TMDLs described in the enclosed form adequately address the pollutants of concern, taking into consideration seasonal variation and a margin of safety.

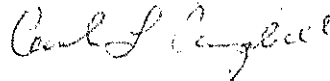
The impaired use is primary contact recreation (IA) and immersion recreation (SD) which address human health criteria. Therefore, a determination was made that EPA's approval of these TMDLs is not subject to consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

We appreciate the thoughtful effort that IDNR and SDDENR have put into these TMDLs. We will continue to cooperate with and assist, as appropriate, in future efforts by IDNR and SDDENR to develop remaining TMDLs. If you have any questions, the most knowledgeable people on our staff are Vern Berry for South Dakota and Bruce Perkins for Iowa. They can be reached at (303) 312-6234 and (913) 551-7067 respectively.

Sincerely,



William A. Spratlin
Director
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division
USEPA Region 7



Carol L. Campbell
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Ecosystems Protection
and Remediation
USEPA Region 8

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Allen Bonini, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Mr. Richard Nelson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Wallace Taylor, Sierra Club
Mr. Jerry Anderson, Drake University School of Law
Mr. Lawrence McLellan, Sullivan & Ward P.C.
Mr. Michael Breitbach, Mississippi River Revival
Ms. Regina Thiry, SAILORS, Inc.
Mr. Sol Simon, Mississippi River Revival